

I don't feel that having a separate CW band on 160 serves amateur radio at all. We have the ARRL Gentlemen's agreement and this works except for one or two weekends each year. Any segmentation in The USA will put USA SSB operators at a disadvantage at not being able to transmit in prime Dx ranges. I support the ARRL plan and have asked the IARU to address the issue of a world wide band between 1800 and 1900Khz. At this time the IARU is more concerned with 40 meters (at least through 2003) and tells me that European hams will not support the bandplan during contests. And contests is the time when the proponents want SSB off the portion used for CW.

I am Director of The CQ WW 160 Contests and to implement the suggested changes will cause problems with the SSB section. Split operation will cause the same problems we have on 75 and 40 with complaints from stations operating on frequencies where the Dx is listening split. I also note I get many complaints from SSB operators about CW operations above 1850 (as high as 1880 some years) in normally SSB ranges. I have noted SSB operation from 1800 to 1950 at the height of activity on Friday and Saturday nights with no clear spots between.

I feel that this issue needs to wait until after the 40 meter questions are settled. Then the ARRL band plan will work fairly well 52 weeks of the year rather than 49 or 50.

David L. Thompson K4JRB